

UNITED FARMERS OF CANADA

ALBERTA SECTION



MANIFESTO



HEAD OFFICE

WILLINGDON, ALBERTA

Thirty-four Years

•
of

Service

To

Western Agriculture

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United Grain Growers

Limited

U.F.C. MANIFESTO



FOR the last nine years, starting with the depression in 1930, we farmers of Western Canada have taken a merciless financial beating. No other industry could have taken it and survived. No organized group of industrial or professional labourers would have tolerated the wage cuts that the farmers endured and not have done something definite and direct about it.

If the wages of the miners were cut 20% there would not be a ton of coal mined. If the wages of the railway men were cut 20% there would not be a train moving between Halifax and Vancouver. If the wages of our teachers were cut there would not be a bell rung in our schools. Cut the wages of the factory workers in our automotive industries and see what would happen. They, one and all, would withhold their services from the industrial and educational organizations for which they work. They would tie up the industry of the country as a definite protest against the lowering of their living standards.

Yet we, the farmers of Western Canada, some 200,000 of us, whose bushels of wheat, oats and barley; whose pounds of beef, pork, mutton, poultry and cream injects the new life-blood into the industrial set-up of this country, and without our new produce the industry of this country would die, we have had our wages cut over 50% and we have not done anything about it. We have not even organized but have been content, our wives, our children and ourselves, to put in more crop each year and raise more stock, in the vain hope that next year things would take a turn for the better. But the more grain we raised, and livestock, the more mother nature rewarded our increased industry the poorer the prices we received and the more poverty stricken and debt ridden our condition becomes. Providing a surplus of the staff of life causes our own financial strangulation.

Helpless in the matter of prices we have to pay for our machinery, groceries, clothing, etc.; helpless in the matter of prices that are dictated to us for the produce we have to sell; faced with more powerful combines and associations of packers,

machine companies, oil companies, grain trade, financial concerns and manufacturers than this Dominion has ever known who, using their tremendous combined power, economic and financial, they have entrenched themselves in the commercial and political life of this country. Before them we, the unorganized farmers of Western Canada and all of Canada, are helpless.

Over a billion dollars of mortgage and machine debts are on our backs. Tens of thousands of farmers, the length and breadth of Western Canada, have seen or are seeing the results of 20, 30 and 40 years of labouring rapidly disappearing; machinery wearing out, land with less fertility, low prices, facing the menace of weeds, drought, hail, rust, grasshoppers, cutworms, increasing taxes and mounting debts; and selling for years below the cost of production and having to pay for our machinery and other necessities just what our organized economic dictators choose to charge.

The time is long overdue for practical direct action on our part. We farmers of the west must organize as we never organized before. We must forget our differences over politics, nationality, religion, municipal and school matters and join our farmers non-political union in our tens of thousands. No others would have the same power as we farmers if organized.

Let us follow the example of our fellow labourers,—the miners, railway men and industrial corporations and organize into our union, regardless of national origin, political affiliation or religious creed. They have seen fit to submerge their differences of politics, nationality and religion and unite together for mutual benefits and self-protection.

When the time is opportune and organizational work sufficiently advanced, it is the intention of this organization, when the situation warrants, to initiate a policy of direct action in the way of non-buying of machinery strike; and the non-delivery of grain strike, backing up the farmers in Manitoba and Saskatchewan and working in close conjunction with them. In other words to adopt the same methods as the organized labourers, and withhold our produce from the industrial set-up the way they withhold their services from the industrial concerns for whom they work, and a definite, direct way of protest against the lowering of their living standards.

Follow the wages of the organized labourers; the income tax and dividends paid by organized corporations. Organizing together has been good medicine for them and it is logical to assume that it would be good medicine for us also.

To that end this organization is working. This United Farmers of Canada, Alberta Section organization, is a sister organization to United Farmers of Canada Saskatchewan Section. We believe in combining of all our farm commercial and educational organization, here in Western Canada, and are definitely wanting to see established an inter-provincial farmers board of the three prairie provinces, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, a board that will speak for the farmers of Western Canada, before the industrial powers and federal authorities of this Dominion, with one mighty voice, a voice that will be heard and not ignored.

This United Farmers of Canada, Alberta Section organization, has been sponsored by no political party and has absolutely no connection with the Communists, Liberals, Conservatives, Social Credit or C.C.F. parties. It is a non-political organization and intends to remain that way. A clause in our Charter, granted by the Provincial Government, prohibits us from entering the Federal, Provincial or Municipal field of politics.

Members of the board combine farmers representing all the political shades of opinion in the province and are of different national origin. They have submerged their differences and are working together with one goal in view and that is to organize the farmers of this province, and all of Western Canada, into a powerful farmers' union that will effectively promote and protect our interests.

We plead with you to become a member of this organization. You can help build and mold its destiny. Only by large membership can we be effective. We, the farmers of the west, must prove that we have red blood in our veins and that no longer will we tolerate a condition of economic poverty.

We farmers must put our buying and selling power together, as the farmers of the United States, Denmark and Sweden are doing. This organization asks all farmers to patronize all the farm commercial enterprises we have in the Province: the Wheat Pools, the U.G.G., the Dairy Pools, District Consumer Co-opera-

tive, the U.F.A. Consumer Co-op., the Livestock Shipping Association, etc. We will not duplicate any of these.

We farmers, by putting our combined power together, can own and operate our own plants. We have built and paid for all the others and do not own a shingle nail or a brick in them. Farmers of Alberta and the West let us build and own for ourselves.

Western Canada harvested the second largest crop in its history in the year 1939—463,000,000 bu. of wheat, 231,000,000 bu. of oats and 80,000,000 bu. of barley.

Ask the merchants throughout the country-side if the farmers are better off than when they grew 240,000,000 bu. in 1938?

Yet the reports of the C.P.R. show an increase of \$6,750,000 in net income in a ten month period as a result of handling part of it.

One third of the people of the Dominion are engaged in agriculture but receive only 1/12 of the income.

This organization stands definitely for parity prices and believes, in all justice and fairness to us farmers of the west, that the federal government should implement a policy of parity prices without delay.

Also this organization firmly believes that a policy of paid farm storage for our wheat crop should be initiated by the federal government as making representation to that end.

In years of surplus, congestion would be relieved if deliveries were spread out, and all storage charges instead of being paid to the grain trade would be paid to the farmers who grow wheat and thereby help out their acute financial situation.

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FINANCIAL RETURNS OF THE ORGANIZED MEAT PACKERS for the year 1938

Capital invested \$61,806,675. Salaries and wages paid to 11,776 employees \$13,921,410. Total amount paid by packers to farmers for their products \$126,630,080. Total value of finished products sold by packers to consumers \$156,971,640, leaving the packers after paying wages to their workers, and amount to farmers for their produce, a sum of \$16,420,144, an amount close to 25% of their total invested capital. By these figures you will see it is more profitable to process meats than raise it. Can we farmers come close to that? When next in

the city take a good look at the packing houses that you have helped build with your pounds of beef, pork and mutton and then remember that you do not own a bolt or a brick in them.

Discrimination in the matter of freight rates:—

	Miles	Rate per cwt.
From Provost, Alta., to Vancouver	944	24c
From London, Ont., to St. John, N.B.....	943	16c

60% of Railway freight revenue derived from Western Canada.

	Per cwt.
Carload barb-wire from factory in Ont. to Edmonton	\$1.98
Carload barb-wire from factory in Ont. to Vancouver75
Vancouver is 700 miles further west than Edmonton.	

A car of canned goods shipped from Aylmer, Ont.

To Vancouver—total freight charges	\$ 450
Same car of canned goods from Aylmer, Ont., to Edmonton ..	1,038
Rates for flannelette blankets, cotton sheets, pillows, cases and towels to Edmonton from factory in east	\$ 4.58½
Rate for same material if shipped to Vancouver.....	1.75

These goods could be shipped from the east to Vancouver back east again to a point 60 miles from Edmonton for 21½ cents less than if shipped to Edmonton direct.

	1st class rates per ton
Rates from Montreal to Vancouver, 2884 miles	3.831
Rates from Montreal to Edmonton, 2159 miles	4.201

	Rate per 100
Carload of canned milk from Red Deer to Vancouver ..	98c
Carload of canned milk from Tilsonburg, Ont., to Vancouver	75c

FREIGHT RATES

Tariffs—

During periods of drought and low prices, when farmers incomes were at a very low level and our debts increasing, tariffs were at their highest since confederation. We farmers and consumers are bearing our loads of extra tariff during years we are least able to do so.

	U.S. Price	Canadian Price	Diff.
Model 1	\$ 84.50	\$164.00	\$ 79.50
Model 2	119.50	189.00	69.50
¾ ton truck	735.00	952.00	183.00
Gas engines	70.00	91.00	21.00
Coffee28	.45	.17
Four buckle overshoes	1.98	3.29	1.31

Price of Cream separators—I.H.C. 1934 price dropped from \$102.30 at Billings, Montana, to \$90.00. At Regina same separator dropped from \$103.50 to \$102.50.

These are just a few figures to give a little idea how the tariff works against us Western farmers who are expected to take world market prices for our produce.

It is estimated by reliable authorities that tariffs cost the farmers and consumers of Western Canada between \$30,000,000 and \$60,000,000 yearly. While we farmers are going through financial death throes high tariffs are digging our graves. For substantiation of figures submitted read Saskatchewan Government briefs and Manitoba Government briefs submitted before Rowell commission.

ORGANIZED FLOUR AND FEED MILL OPERATIONS FOR 1938

Capital invested \$61,867,675. Wages paid \$5,542,945. Amount paid for wheat, etc. \$90,614,236. Value of this processed and sold by millers \$114,617,099%. Leaving the millers, after paying wages and the cost of their grain, a sum of \$18,459,918, a sum close to 30% of their invested capital.

Remember these figures when you sell your next load of wheat for 52c per bu. and your oats for 15c, and ponder why bread is sold cheaper on the streets of London, 6,000 miles away, than it is in your own home town. Then look up the meaning of three words—organization, monopoly and combine. Then join the United Farmers of Canada, Alberta Section.

Net value of products sold by the 40 leading industries of the Dominion \$960,181,687 in 1938. (Canada Year Book)

Income Tax Paid to Federal Govt. by organized industrial and financial corporations in years 1935 to 1938 inclusive.

Year 1935	\$35,790,239
" 1936	42,518,971
" 1937	58,012,843
" 1938	69,090,658

Income tax paid by farmers of Dominion of Canada in Federal Treasury for same period—1935 to 1938.

Year 1935	\$24,088
" 1936	46,609
" 1937	78,395
" 1938	78,081

Total paid by organized industrial and financial groups \$206,090,658. (Canada Year Book). 783,000 unorganized farmers of Canada paid a total of \$225,168.

Besides the \$206,090,658 paid out by way of income tax organized industrial and financial corporations paid, by way of dividends to their shareholders for the four year period, a total of over \$1,200,000, besides putting aside millions for depreciation. Figures for depreciation not easily available. It was the bushels of wheat, oats and barley; pounds of beef, pork, mutton and dairy products produced by us

farmers of the Dominion that chiefly made it possible for these sums to be paid out by organized industry. But what have we farmers got out of it all throughout the years? Our board and the exercise.

This is a short sketch of the unfair burden farmers and consumers of the west are labouring under.

Figures taken from Brief of Edmonton Chamber of Commerce.

OUR AIMS AND OBJECTIVES U.F.C.

1. To build a powerful farmer organization, within the province, to give weight to legitimate demands.
2. To establish a western inter-provincial farmers board so that unified action on the part of western farmers may take place.
3. To establish more equitable returns for our produce so a higher standard of living and a greater sense of security may result.
4. Co-ordination of all farmers organizations and co-operative enterprises.
5. The establishing of parity prices.
6. The establishing of a policy of paid "farm storage" for our wheat crop.

PROVINCIAL CONSTITUTION

The Name of Organization

The name of this Association to be: United Farmers of Canada (Alberta Section).

Aims and Purposes of the Organization

This association to work in close harmony and cohesion with the United Farmers organization of Saskatchewan, Alberta and Manitoba to take whatever legitimate means in conjunction with them to press our claims for economic justice from the political and industrial powers that be; to build a powerful organization in order to give backing to justified claims on their part. To promote and foster farmer co-operative enterprises.

Strictly non-political

The status of this organization to be strictly non-political and under no circumstances is the organization to be used to promote the welfare of any political party.

Qualification for Membership

Membership of this organization is open only to farmers who actually reside on farms.

THE BOARD

All members of the Executive and Board are to be bona-fide farmers and paid up members of the association.

The Board shall comprise the following: President; Vice-President; Second Vice-President; Secretary-Treasurer and twelve Directors. The Board to be elected by delegates at the provincial convention, with exception that the secretary be appointed by the Board of Directors.

DUTIES OF THE BOARD

The President or Secretary shall call meetings of the Board whenever a situation arises and they deem it advisable to do so.

The Board may call a convention at any time that necessity dictates, but one convention a year must be held.

The Board may hire any technical help that the successful operation of this organization may dictate.

The Executive must keep in close touch with all happenings, economic and political, which may effect the welfare of the farmers. They are the responsible guardians of the farmers' interests and shall take such action as they deem advisable.

DELEGATES

Each Local shall be entitled to one delegate at the Provincial Convention for each ten members, or the major portion thereof, membership dues to be in good standing.

AMENDMENTS

All amendments to Constitution to be by two-thirds majority vote.

Additional clauses and amendments to this Constitution may be made at any duly called convention, with exception of the basic clause regarding its non-political status that cannot be changed at any convention.

LOCAL CONSTITUTION

1. Any seven farmers may form a Local.
2. Each Local shall elect a President, Vice-President, Secretary and four Directors.
3. The membership fees at present are \$1.00 per annum, which must be sent to the Central Secretary. The fee for local

expenses is to be set by the members of the local and must provide also for a radio broadcast fund.

4. All members to be farmers actually residing on farms, or residing on farms part time and sympathetic to organization. This is left to local to decide.

5. Those joining 3 months prior to end of fiscal year December 31, will be considered members for next ensuing 15 months. All paid-up farmers, wives and children over 18 will be considered members.

6. Each Local to be run on a strictly non-political basis. It will be the responsibility of the chairman to see that this is carried out.

7. But legislation which affects the welfare of the farmers may be freely discussed.

8. This organization is open to all farmers regardless of political affiliation, natural origin or religious beliefs, thus paving the way for united action on the part of farmers to achieve economic justice.

ORDER OF LOCAL MEETINGS

1. Dealing with applications for membership and initiation.
2. Minutes of previous meeting and business arising thereon.
3. Reports of Committees.
4. Communication from Central Secretary and action thereon.
5. Unfinished business.
6. New business.
7. Date of next meeting and place.
8. Motion to adjourn.

INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO FORM A LOCAL

The meeting is called to order by the person responsible for calling the same.

A chairman and secretary are appointed. The chairman calls on the opener of the meeting to explain the purpose of calling same. He then explains.

A farmer moves, and another seconds, that a Local be formed. After discussion the motion is put to a vote. If it

carries the chairman calls for a sign up of members. (Seven being necessary to form a Local).

After the sign up of members takes place, the chairman calls for nominations for the office of President; one or more may be nominated by members. If a vote is necessary, the nominee with the majority becomes president.

The President then takes the chair and calls for the nomination of a Vice-President, Secretary and then four Directors who are elected by a similar procedure.

The Secretary collects the membership dues, issuing receipt for same and forwards the names of members and dues, along with a report of the meeting to the Central Secretary, who will in turn, issue a receipt for dues and forward membership cards along with receipt books to the local Secretary. The Local is then established and entitled to take part in any convention that follows.



SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO KEEP YOUR LOCAL ALIVE

You must keep it alive and this depends on every member to turn out to every meeting and discuss freely problems that confront the farming population. We as farmers have a battle to fight and must fight it with more energy than ever before. Our battle is for economic freedom and in these distressed days we must have no slackers. Our weapons will be education—more and more education—the organization of the forces of profitable production; the strengthening of planned marketing organizations; a program of thrift through our credit unions; the building of our consumer co-operatives and our wholesales. Thus we will be able to hold our own against war-time profiteering and play a really constructive part in our society when depressed after war conditions come.

You should devote one night a week to the study of how to obtain economic ownership in fields where we have lost it and to retain that small ownership which still remains to us. If this is to be done then it is up to those who are prepared to pay their membership dues to see that this organization is made to go forward and it is only through you as an individual that we can achieve our goal.

Therefore then let us organize study clubs and let us not find giving one night a week too great a sacrifice. Study club reorganization meetings are being held at various points throughout the country at the present time. Get in line, form a U.F.C. local in your community if this has not already been done. If a meeting is not arranged for your district in the near future, organize your local anyway. At

least gather some of your friends together, read this manifesto to them and ask them what they are prepared to do in bettering their own conditions.

Then start discussion on various vital problems of interest. Send for the Canada Year Book, the Public accounts book, make application to the Dept. of Extension for study group material on any problem you may desire to discuss, request every member to read the U.F.C. Information, The Western Producer, the Co-op. News, the Cow Bell (published by the Alberta Dairy Pool), the Rural Co-operative (Toronto at 35c per year), have a social evening, a bazaar, under the auspices of the U.F.C. local to raise funds for your study material, delegates and radio fund, and your organization will go forward. Encourage the young people to attend, send them as delegates to the convention.

All members of this organization must realize that all members of the Board are farmers and they are devoting all the time and energy they can possibly spare as far as finances permit towards reaching our aims and objectives and they realize without large membership they are helpless in achieving this goal. And it depends on every local member to lend every assistance available to make our membership 100% every year. Do not depend on your executive to do all. Their problems are your problems and they depend on every member to stand loyal, virile and militant to back them up in their demands to the powers that be. We must unite and we are anxious more than ever before to see a flourishing local in every community to be prepared for after-war depression.

Co-operatives are our only weapon and if your community is interested in starting a Consumers Co-operative get in touch with Supervisor of Co-operatives, Dept. of Trade and Industry, Edmonton, Alta. This Dept. will give you all the information you might require to start a Co-operative in your community. The Dept. of Extension, University of Alberta, will also help you along this line and give you information on Co-operatives, International and Economic affairs. Write them.

No doubt you are aware that the Canadian Council of Agriculture at its annual meeting recently held in Ottawa, decided to provide adequate finances for the setting up of a central or national organization, pay the expenses of a competent manager and set up an office that would take care of matters, federally, in which any of our provincial organizations might be interested. It was also decided to change the name of the Canadian Council of Agriculture to the Canadian Federation of Agriculture when approval to the change was given by the different organizations affiliated with the central body. They had also decided that it would be in the interests of the movement if each of our provincial organizations were known as Federations of Agriculture. It is hoped that amalgamations along this line may achieve the goal we have set to do.

UNITED FARMERS OF CANADA

ALBERTA SECTION

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HEAD OFFICE, WILLINGDON, ALBERTA

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PRESIDENT

Wm. A. Yusep Ispas

1ST VICE-PRESIDENT

C. O. McGowan Hairy Hill

2ND VICE-PRESIDENT

W. G. Logan Holden

SECRETARY-TREASURER

R. J. Boutillier Willingdon

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Fred Boychuk, Smoky Lake
B. Crull, Chipman
W. E. Davis, Elk Point
John Dobry, Phillips
C. A. Jenkins, Sprucefield**

**W. G. Logan, Holden
J. F. Melenka, Warwick
H. T. Payne, Vegreville
G. T. Pawliuk, Whitford
W. A. Romaniuk, Wostok
Peter Samoil, Plain Lake**

The Northern Alberta Dairy Pool Limited

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A 100% producer owned and democratically controlled co-operative cream marketing association in which producers acquire ownership through butter-fat shipments.

Through ownership and control of their cream marketing facilities, Dairy Pool shippers are able to enjoy full returns from their cream shipments. In the past twelve years, besides acquiring important manufacturing and marketing facilities in their own name, they have received final payments during this period amounting to over \$470,000.00 in addition to the market price at time of shipment.

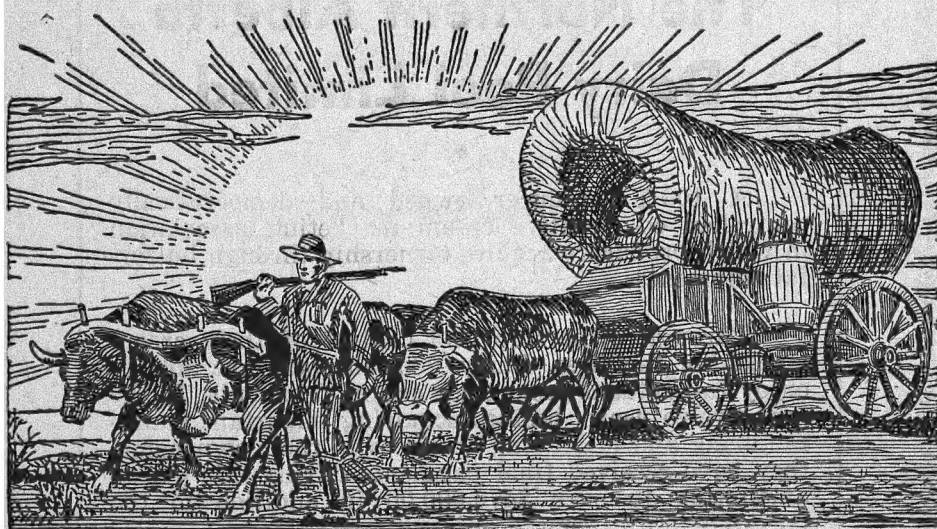
The co-operative producers who own and control The Northern Alberta Dairy Pool Limited, invite their fellow producers to enjoy with them a share in the ownership of this co-operative organization by shipping their cream to one of the branches of the organization. Northern Alberta Dairy Pool branches are located at Edmonton, Sedgewick, Wetaskiwin, Andrew and Edgerton.

Co-operators are invited to write for further information to the head office of the

Northern Alberta Dairy Pool Limited

10531 - 102nd Street, Edmonton

FOR YOUNG FARM FOLKS



The pioneer farmers of the prairie provinces were mostly men of energy, courage and perspective. They soon discovered that an oligarchy of wealth was being built up in the grain handling and selling business. Conditions became intolerable to freedom-loving people.

The pioneers offset the encroaching money control by building their own co-operative organizations. It took much of their time, their meagre savings and vast energy to accomplish the task. But their persistence was unbeatable.

Huge grain organizations with vast assets of wealth behind them invaded Western Canada. But the pioneer co-operators met them all—dauntless and unafraid.

You are protected in all your grain dealings today because of the deeds of the pioneer co-operators. They drew up a timeless Magna Charta for the benefit of all posterity on the prairies.

The torch is now in your hands. It is your duty and privilege to see that the cooperative institutions, developed from the efforts of a passing generation, are strengthened and perpetuated.

ALBERTA POOL ELEVATORS

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